

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

In response to the Examiner's objection to the drawing figures in the Office Action of August 31, 2005, Applicants submit concurrently herewith a Submission of Replacement Drawings including seven sheets of replacement drawings having Figures 1-16 in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.81. The replacement sheets of drawings merely provide a clean version of the prior drawings and therefore, no new matter has been added through the submission of the replacement drawings.

REMARKS

On page two of the Office Action dated August 31, 2005, the Examiner objected to claims 4-14 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as allegedly being in improper multiple dependent form. In view of the objection, the Examiner did not further treat any of pending claims 1-14 on their merits. In response, Applicants respectfully submit that none of pending claims 1-14 are in multiple dependent form by virtue of a Preliminary Amendment filed on August 20, 2004 in this application, a copy of which is attached to this reply. Also attached is a copy of an itemized, date-stamped postcard indicating receipt of the Preliminary Amendment by the PTO.

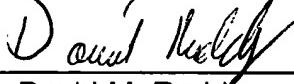
Therefore, in view of the Preliminary Amendment filed August 20, 2004, Applicants request withdrawal of the objections to claims 4-14 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c). Accordingly, in view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: October 12, 2005

By: 

David M. Ruddy
Reg. No. 53,945

Attachments: (1) August 20, 2004 Preliminary Amendment and postcard (9 pages)